

A6 18. [(Amended)] Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 1 [to 17,]  
characterized by the piece of material being subjected to a dipping treatment in an  
acid prior to anodic oxidation.

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**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On Page 1, please delete the paragraph beginning "The quoted paper only  
mentions rough and wide ..."

and insert

A7 -- The quoted paper only mentions rough and wide ranges of parameter for  
the treatment process, not indicating any details, however, of homogeneity and  
uniformity of the darkened surfaces. --

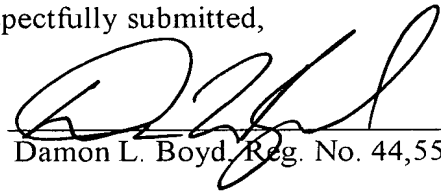
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**REMARKS**

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (602) 382-6337 at  
the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject  
application. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any deficiency in fees  
be debited from deposit account no. 19-2814, **for which purpose a duplicate copy  
of this sheet is attached. This statement does NOT authorize charge of the Issue  
Fee.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 June 2001

By:   
Damon L. Boyd, Reg. No. 44,552

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